



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

Matthew Hervey • Susan Atkins • Judy McCarty • Mel Katz • Salvatore Giametta

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Katie Sullivan, Susan Atkins, Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Judy McCarty, Salvatore Giametta

Absent: None

Staff: Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Jay Hill, San Diego Public Library Foundation Executive Director; Cynthia Meinhardt, Project Officer II; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

Public: Brenda Mason, Shelia Padgett

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 2008 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Shelia Padgett

The Friends have been working with the San Diego Public Library Foundation regarding the budget issues. There were rallies at the Ocean Beach and Allied Gardens/Benjamin Libraries to support keeping the libraries open. Commissioner Sullivan reported the annual Friends Holiday Lunch is December 11, 2009, at 11:30 am at the Gen Lai Sen Restaurant, 1065 Park Boulevard.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Brenda Mason

Serra will be submitting a Federal Grant on December 5, 2009, in conjunction with San Jose State University, for a proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the amount of \$700,000 for scholarships to assist Serra libraries' employees to obtain a Master's Degree in Library Science.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Katie Sullivan

Deferred.

DEPUTY CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER: Elmer Heap

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Cynthia Meinhardt reviewed the written Capital Improvement Project Update report. The construction plans for the New Main Library were approved by the Division of the State Architect and the Development Services Department. The final bid set was approved and accepted by the Office of the State Library on November 7, 2008.

Logan Heights Branch Library is under construction and approximately 66% complete.

San Carlos Branch Library hazardous material cleanup is still underway. BP Oil is responsible for the ongoing cleanup.

Commissioner Hervey stated that the donation to the Mission Hills Library is conditioned upon it being a 20,000 square foot, Craftsman style branch library.

Commissioner Hervey commented that the grant for the Skyline Hills Branch Library expires at the end of December 2008.

Motion:

Commissioner Atkins moved that the Commissioners go on record by sending a letter to the Mayor reminding him that the \$3.5 million grant for the Skyline Hills Branch Library expires at the end of December 2008, and that the donation to the Mission Hills Library is conditioned upon it being a 20,000 square foot, Craftsman style branch library.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hervey and passed unanimously.

Ms. Barrow asked the Commissioners for their input on the recommended process for public input on what the Library System Plan would be like in the future given the current budget circumstances. It was commented that the 21st Century Library Plan was developed as a long-range plan and involved extensive discussions with the Council. After a lengthy discussion, the Commissioners decided to set up meetings with each Council Member during the first three weeks in January 2009 to discuss the Library System Plan and get their recommendations. At the February 2009 meeting the Commissioners will revisit the Library System Plan and the Council Members' recommendations.

Commissioner Katz reported that the San Diego Public Library Foundation applied for a grant to Las Patronas and were selected as a major beneficiary for the 2009 Jewel Ball to be held on August 8, 2009. Logan Heights Branch Library will receive approximately \$45,000 to purchase computer and audio visual equipment. The Foundation and the Logan Heights Branch Library will be included in Las Patronas' year-long publicity efforts.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if a representative from the Mayor's office could be assigned to attend future Library Commission meetings. Ms. Barrow will inquire and report back.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Deborah Barrow

- The movie "Leaf," based on former Chargers quarterback Ryan Leaf, is playing tonight at 6:30 pm in the Central Library's auditorium and has received significant publicity.
- The Hungarian Consulate has requested collaboration with the Library on a seminar and film in February 2009 to celebrate the famous Hungarian writer Sandor Marai. Marai used the Central Library during his time of residence in San Diego.
- One Book, One San Diego kickoff event is February 18, 2009, with author Diane Ackerman, at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, David & Dortha Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla 92037. A reading excerpt from *The Zookeeper's Wife* will be presented by the Mo'olebo Performing Art Company. The Library's website is being updated as more events are being planned.

AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

10.b Budget Update

Ms. Barrow reported that a proposal was submitted to Council and reviewed by the IBA (Independent Budget Analyst) for the temporary closure of seven libraries. Some of the criteria used for selecting these libraries were proximity to other, and in some cases larger libraries, (between 2-4 miles apart); usage statistics and building condition/attributes. The Council voted on Monday, December 1, 2008, to use available Library System funds to keep the seven libraries open for the next six months. These funds originally had been set aside for planning new and expanded libraries. There is still a shortfall for the new budget season and different recommendations will be looked at to meet the new budget requirements. It's possible the Library could receive approximately \$450,000 from the State Library from the Public Library Fund (PLF) based on the budget that was previously passed by the Legislature.

10.c Legislative Update

Ms. Barrow reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming events next year, Legislative Day (April 15, 2009) and Day in the District (January 30 and February 6, 2009).

Ms. Barrow was asked by the Commissioners to obtain information on how to lower the 2/3 voter requirement needed to pass bond measures for the Library. Ms. Barrow stated she will send an email to the President of the CLA (California Library Association) and report back. Ms. Barrow suggested the Commissioners talk with Senator Joe Simitian as well as our own legislators.

10.d Foundation Update

Mr. Hill acknowledged Commissioner Katz's efforts in obtaining the Las Patronas grant for the Logan Heights Branch Library.

The Foundation re-launched their website about a month ago and they have started receiving gifts on-line. The website is: supportmylibrary.org.

Mr. Hill passed out a new Foundation brochure about libraries. He also passed out a one-page informational handout regarding upcoming events for the One Book selection, *The Zookeeper's Wife*. The Library is partnering with KPBS and the Jewish Community Center on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, for a public and donor event, and author Diane Ackerman will be there.

The Friends were honored at Philanthropy Day last month, and 45 people representing the Library attended.

The Cubic Corporation is committed to donating \$7,500 this year. Last year they donated \$5,000, and the year before, \$1,000.

There will be a press conference on December 10 with San Diego Unified School District Superintendent Terry Grier and Ms. Barrow regarding Live Homework Help.

The Summer Reading Program is 83 years old, and has set a record for five years in a row.

The California Library Association acknowledged the Foundation, the Friends, and the Library for their partnership in last year's Children's Book Festival.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Commission meeting will be Wednesday, February 3, 2009 (there will be no January meeting).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Deborah L. Barrow

DEBORAH L. BARROW
Library Director

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